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>>From Phoenix Health Systems--HIPAA Knowledge--HIPAA Solutions<<  
=>Healthcare IT Consulting & Outsourcing<=

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HIPAA compliance deadlines are only weeks away - are you ready?

Phoenix Health Systems'

\*\* HIPAAAction Small Provider Assessment and Planning Tool Set \*\*

is an extensive resource on CD-ROM packed with checklists, sample agreements, decision trees, timelines, questionnaires and other practical tools.

To find out more, go to

<http://www.HIPAAAdvisory.com/wares/HIPAAStoolset/>

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This week's HIPAAnote...

\*\*\* The Compliance Date for Security Isn't Until 2005, So Can I Take a Break? \*\*\*

The good news is that the Security Rule has been finalized. The security standards were published as a final rule in the February 20, 2003 Federal Register with an effective date of April 21, 2003. Most covered entities will have two full years -- until April 21, 2005 -- to comply with the standards; small health plans will have an additional year to comply, as HIPAA requires.

The burning question is: If the compliance date is not until April 21, 2005, will covered entities have time to take a breath between implementing privacy before they start security? The answer is maybe a few quick breaths but not much more.

Keep in mind that the Privacy Rule has its own embedded Security components in section (45 CFR 164.530(c)) and requires the implementation of "appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards" for protected health information in all forms, non-electronic and electronic." Most covered entities realize that ensuring patient information remains private and confidential requires proper security measures to be in effect. It is difficult to imagine convincing a patient that his or her information will be safeguarded if the covered entity cannot demonstrate that proper physical security policies and procedures are implemented.

The bottom line is that HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules are designed to complement each other and to work in tandem. So do not sit back and relax too long before focusing on security -- be proactive and start planning your security program now!

For a summary analysis of the Final Security Rule, go to  
<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/regs/finalsecurity/summaryanalysis.htm>

View the final rule at:  
<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/regs/finalsecurity/index.htm>

Henry Driller, Director  
Phoenix Health Systems

That's today's HIPAAnote...now, pass it along!

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HIPAAnotes are published weekly as a learning tool to help you and your associates stay tuned-in to HIPAA and its implications. Forward it to anyone with a "need to know" through your own internal mailing list, intranet or newsletter -- whatever works for you...

Our HIPAAcratic oath: We'll use your ideas for HIPAAnotes -- send them!  
Randa Upham, Editor  
D'Arcy Gue, Executive Editor

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Our Other HIPAA resources:  
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HIPAAAlert newsletter: <http://www.hipaalert.com>  
HIPAALive discussion list: <http://www.hipaalive.com>  
HIPAALive-Premium: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/live/prem.htm>  
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